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January 8, 2001

Jane E. Henney, M. D.  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville MD 20857-0001

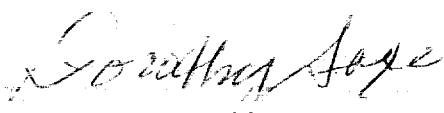
Dear Commissioner Henney:

The Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that 24.6 million pounds - roughly 70 percent of all antibiotic drugs - are fed to healthy cows, pigs, and chickens for nontherapeutic use, e.g. growth promotion. Although UCS's estimate was arrived at by an indirect method, it is probably closer to the truth than the 17.8 million pounds reported by industry. It is therefore important to have Government-guaranteed information on U. S. antibiotic use, both for agriculture and for human use.

The FDA has recognized the need for such information, but has not yet established a system for collecting it. I urge you to create and implement such a system, which should include class, indication, dosage, and treatment period. The need is urgent, because overuse of antibiotics is contributing to the emergence of untreatable diseases in people.

Please respond to this letter.

Respectfully,

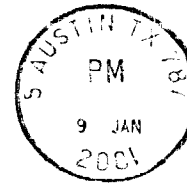


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